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IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings, which include Figs. 5, 6 and 7, replace the original sheets including Figs. 5, 6 and 7, respectively. The drawings have been amended to change "145" indicating the suction valve in Fig. 5 to --147--, and "141" indicating the slot in Fig. 6 to --141a--.

Attachment : Replacement Sheets (2 Pages)

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants respectfully acknowledge that the Examiner has objected to claim 6 and has indicated that dependent claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-9 and 11-20 remain pending in the application. Claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof and claims 11-20 have been added for consideration.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action the drawings are objected to because the suction valve in Fig. 5 is labeled inconsistently with the specification

In response, the drawings have been amended to change "145" indicating the suction valve in Fig. 5 to --147--, and "141" indicating the slot in Fig. 6 to --141a--.

Therefore the drawings are now consistent with the specification, and thus the objection to the drawings is moot.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP Publication 52-23707 (hereinafter "'707"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define a structural feature of an embodiment and to more clearly distinguish over the applied prior art

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reference by further reciting the gas muffler as an additional member. No new matter is introduced by the present amendment. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to, inter alia, Figs. 2-4 of Applicants' application.

It is a disclosed object of a present embodiment to provide a reciprocating compressor that is capable of preventing a suction loss due to overheating of a reciprocating motor during operation by enhancing a suction structure for refrigerant gas.

To achieve the above-noted object, the reciprocating compressor of one disclosed embodiment, as recited in amended claim 1, includes, inter alia, a case having a gas suction pipe and a gas discharge pipe and a frame unit positioned in the case. The reciprocating compressor further includes a compression unit including a cylinder positioned at the frame unit and having a plurality of slots formed in a longitudinal direction on an outer circumferential surface, a piston coupled with a reciprocating motor so as to linearly and reciprocally move into the cylinder and having a plurality of through holes formed at an outer side, the through holes communicating with the slots, and a compression unit having a gas muffler member positioned at an outer circumferential surface of the cylinder, as an additional member.

The '707 reference cited to support the rejection does not disclose such a combination of features, particularly the gas muffler member positioned at an outer circumferential surface of the cylinder, as an additional member. Although the '707

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reference includes a discharge member 12, the discharge member is not an additional member, but a member that appears to be defined by the portions 8 and 2 thereof.

In contrast, in the presently claimed embodiment, as noted above and clearly seen in Figs. 2-4, the gas muffler member 143, positioned at an outer circumferential surface of the cylinder 141, is provided as an additional member.

Thus, '707 reference does not disclose each and every feature recited in claim 1, and thus cannot anticipate claim 1 of the present application at least for this reason.

Additionally, claim 4 has been amended to further recite an echo space formed inside the gas muffler member, which is configured to absorb suction noise and vibration generated during an operation of the compressor. This feature is also not disclosed in the '707 reference.

Newly added independent claim 11 recites, inter alia, the gas muffler member positioned at an outer circumferential surface of the cylinder and configured to be directly connected with the gas suction pipe, and newly added independent claim 20 recites, inter alia, the gas suction pipe provided near the through holes and configured to introduce suction gas without passing the way of the reciprocating motor.

None of the above combinations of the features is disclosed in the '707 reference, either. The suction chamber 11 in the '070 reference indirectly communicates the suction pipe by way of the filed chamber 9, and thus the suction gas is introduced through the motor.

In contrast, in the presently claimed embodiment, as recited in claim 11 or 20,

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the gas suction pipe SP is provided near the through holes 142a and/or the gas muffler member 143 directly communicates with the gas suction pipe. Therefore, the suction gas is introduced without through the reciprocating motor 130.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto.

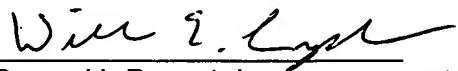
Claims 1, 11 and 20 are now believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above-noted remarks. Claims 2-9 and 12-19 are submitted to be in condition for allowance in view of their dependence from a shown to be allowable base claim and also based upon the recitation of other features of the present invention. It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejections of claims 1-5 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn and that an early indication of the allowance thereof be given.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachments: 2 Replacement Sheets of Drawings

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